

Message Text

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13

ACTION NEA-16

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TAGS: PFOR, SOPN

SUBJ: JORDANIAN PRESS COVERAGE OF RABIN VISIT

1. SUMMARY: JORDANIAN PRESS, AND PARTICULARLY EDITORIAL, COVERAGE OF RABIN VISIT TO WASHINGTON HAS SHOWN STEADY DECLINE IN MOOD FROM COMPARATIVELY NEUTRAL ANTICIPATION OF FERVENT DISSECTION OF IMPLICATIONS OF "UNLIMITED" US MILITARY SUPPORT TO ISRAEL. FAILURE OF PARTIES TO ANNOUNCE JORDAN FRONT AS NEXT ARENA OF NEGOTIATION ALSO PREDICTABLY CRITICIZED. END SUMMARY.

2. JORDANIAN PRESS COVERAGE OF RABIN VISIT TO WASHINGTON TOOK ON PROGRESSIVELY DISILLUSIONED, IF NOT OUTRAGED, TONE AS DETAILS, IMAGINED OR OTHERWISE, OF US MILITARY AID EMERGED. COVERAGE PRIOR TO VISIT STRESSED KISSINGER'S "ADVICE TO ISRAEL TO SHOW FLEXIBILITY, ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECT TO NEGOTIATIONS WITH JORDAN. ELABORATE RABIN ARRIVAL CEREMONIES GIVEN WIDE COVERAGE WITHOUT EDITORIAL COMMENT, ALTHOUGH PROBABLE LIST OF ISRAELI ARMS DEMANDS NOTED. CONTINUING REPORTS OS ISRAELI

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ARMS DEMANDS APPARENTLY PROMPTED OPTIMISTIC SEPT 13 EDITORIAL

IN WEST-BANK ORIENTED AD-DUSTOUR; "THE CURRENT TALKS ARE A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PRESIDENT TO REAFFIRM HIS PAST ASSURANCES OF A CONTINUING AMERICAN EFFORT TO ACHIEVE PEACE IN THE AREA...IN FACT, THE CURRENT US-RABIN TALKS ARE A TEST OF WASHINGTON'S INTENTIONS, SINCE BECAUSE OF ISRAEL'S LONG LIST OF ARMS REQUESTS, THE US HAS NOW THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESSURE RABIN TOWARD A PEACEFUL ROLE. WILL THE US CONTINUE ITS TRADITIONAL ROLE AS SUPPLIERS OF ARMS TO ISRAEL, OR WILL IT PLACE AS FIRST CONSIDERATION THE NEW POLICY OF THE LAST DAYS OF THE NIXON ERA, THAT IS, SHOULDERING THE BURDEN OF PEACE?"

3. EDITORIAL COMMENT SEPT 14 CONFINED TO CRITICIZING FACT THAT US-RABIN DEPARTURE STATEMENT IMPLIED SINAI FRONT AS NEXT ROUND; "THUS, TENSION MUST INEVITABLY REMAIN IN THE AREA". COMPARATIVE MEDIA RESTRAINT DISSAPPEARED ON SEPT 15, HOWEVER, WHEN FURTHER DETAILS OF CONTINUATION OF US ARMS SUPPLIES SURFACED. FRONTPAGE EDITORIAL IN WEST BANI-ORIENTED AS-SABAH, UNDER TITLE "THE AMERICAN WEAPON AND THE SOVIER FRIEND" NOTED THAT US ARMS WILL ENABLE ISRAEL TO CONTINUE HER OBDURACY: "ISRAEL'S INTRANSIGENCE IN PREPARING FOR WAR IS THE MAIN MOTIVATION BEHIND PRESIDENT SADAT'S SAYING THAT USSR WILL REMAIN THE LOYAL FRIEND OF THE ARABS...WE NEVER WANTED THE NEW AMERICAN PRESIDENT'S POLICY TO CANCEL OUT THE AMERICAN-ARAB HARMOUNY INITIATED BY PRESIDENT NIMN. WE DO NOT WANT PRESIDENT FORD'S POLICY TO MAKE THE ARABS BELIEVE THAT THE US HAS ONCE MORE RETURNED TO ITS PROVOCATIVE STANCE." IN ADDITION, AD-DUSTOUR CARTOON SEP 16 SHOWS GRINNING UNCLE SAM LOOKING ON AS ISRAELI PREACICES SHOOTING AT TARGET ON WHICH PICTURE OF ARAB IS TACKED.

4. RABIN'S RETURN SEP 16 WAS FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE, WITH DETAILS OF PROPOSED "ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN NON-AGRESSION PACT" FEATURED. ARTICLE NOTES THAT RABIN AND US AGREED THAT ANY TALKS RE WEST BANK MUST BE HELD WITH JORDAN, NOT PLO, AL-MASA EDITORIAL: "THE US IS ABOUT TO ADOPT A HANDS-OFF POLICY TOWARD A SETTLEMENT... THIS NEW TREND WAS DEMONSTRATED BY KISSINGER'S TWICE SUBMITTING HIS RESIGNATION LAST MONTH AFTER FINDING THAT HIS FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT WAS RESTRICTED".

5. MEDIA DISSILLUSIONMENT REACHED LOW POINT WHEN GOJ-SPONSORED AR-RAYY SEP 18 DEVOTED TWO LONG EDITORIALS TO SUBJECT OF US LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL. "REGARDLESS OF POSSIBLE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE US AND ISRAEL, ONE CAN JUDGE THE RESULTS OF RABIN'S VISIT BY THE HUGE AMOUNTS OF MILITARY AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, PARTICULARLY SINCE ISRAEL HAS ALWAYS INSISTED ON OBTAINING SUCH ENORMOUS ASSISTANCE IN ORDER TO NEGOTIATE FROM A POSITION OF STRENGTH, EVEN THOUGH THE US IS PLACING ALL ITS INDUSTRIAL MILITARY CAPABILITY AT THE DISPOSAL OF ISRAEL, AND EVEN THOUGH THE US INSISTS ON SUPPLYING ISRAEL WITH HUGH QUANTITIES OF MILITARY MATERIELE

MATCHING ALL THE ARAB ARMS SUPPLIES COMBINED, THE US WILL NEVER GAIN THE FULL CONFIDENCE OF ISRAEL". AR-RAYY ALSO EDITORIALIZED "LITTLE BY LITTLE THE NEW GAME IS BEING UNCOVERED. RUMORS SAY THAT KISSINGER WILL RESIGN IN A FEW MONTHS, CARRYING WITH HIM INTO OBLIVION ALL AMERICAN PROMISES. IT IS UNFAIR TO THINK THAT A NEW PRESIDENT WILL BE ABLE TO MASTER SUCH A COMPLICATED PROBLEM IN SUCH A SHORT TIME. THE PROBLEM WILL THUS BE DELAYED.. IN THE PARALYSIS OF OUR FRUSTRATION AND DISAPPOINTMENT CONCERNING THE US PROMISES, ISRAEL WILL TRY HARD TO INFILTRATE THE ARABS TO DESTROY THEM. HAVING SECURED CONTINUATION OF US SUPPORT, ISRAEL PLANS TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE TO THE JEWISH SHODIER AND IMMIGRANT THROUGH ANOTHER WAR."
PICKERING

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